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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its thirteenth session. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/46/8).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.

2. The report of the Commission on the work of its thirteenth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.

3. The Commission consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States, and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

Antigua and Barbuda***
Bangladesh*
Bolivia**
Botswana*
Brazil***
Burundi*
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic*
Canada**
Chile***
China**
Colombia***
Cyprus*
Denmark*
Egypt*
Finland***
France**
Germany*
Greece*
Guatemala**
Hungary**
India*
Indonesia**
Iran (Islamic Republic of)***
Iraq**
Italy**
Jamaica*
Japan***
Jordan*
Kenya*
Lesotho**
Malawi**
Mexico*
Netherlands**
Nigeria***
Norway*
Paraguay**
Peru*
Poland*
Romania***
Sierra Leone***
Somalia**
Sri Lanka***
Swaziland**
Sweden**
Syrian Arab Republic**
Tunisia**
Turkey***
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics***
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland***
United Republic of Tanzania*
United States of America***
Yugoslavia**
Zimbabwe***

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 1991.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 1992.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1994.

Currently, there are three vacancies among the African States and two vacancies among the Asian States.

4. The thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at Harare from 29 April to 8 May 1991 at the invitation of the Government of Zimbabwe and in accordance with section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by Mr. Edgardo Santiago (Colombia) on behalf of the Chairman of the Commission at its twelfth session. A summary of his statement is given in annex V, section A.

6. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the occasion; the text is reproduced in annex IV. The inaugural address was given by the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe; a summary appears in annex V, section B. The Executive Director made a statement on the state of human settlements; a summary appears in annex V, section C. The Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) delivered an address on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP; a summary appears in annex V, section D. A statement was read on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; a summary appears in annex V, section E.

B. Attendance

7. The following States members of the Commission were represented:

Bangladesh
Botswana
Brazil
Burundi
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Lesotho
Malawi
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Poland
Romania
Sierra Leone
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Tunisia
Turkey
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Republic of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Yugoslavia
Zimbabwe

8. The following States not members of the Commission participated as observers:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Austria
Barbados
Belgium
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Guinea
Guyana
Israel
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Niger
Pakistan
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Spain
Sudan
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Venezuela
Yemen
Zambia

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

10. The representative of Palestine participated.

11. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the following units:

Department of Public Information;
United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

12. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
United Nations Development Programme;
United Nations Environment Programme;
World Food Programme.

13. The following specialized agencies were represented:

World Health Organization;
World Bank.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank;
Commonwealth secretariat.

15. The African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania were also represented.

16. In addition, 15 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

C. Election of officers

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 29 April 1991, Mr. E. C. Chikowore, Minister of Public Construction and National Housing of Zimbabwe, was elected Chairman. The following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. B. de Azevado-Brito (Brazil)
Mr. S. Obeysekera (Sri Lanka)
Mr. E. V. Sarnatsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Rapporteur: Mr. H. S. van Eyk (Netherlands)

D. Credentials

18. Under rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Bureau examines the credentials submitted by delegations and reports thereon to the Commission.

19. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1991, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the thirteenth session of the Commission and had found them to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 29 April 1991, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the thirteenth session, as contained in document HS/C/13/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. (a) The significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to the concept of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the relationships between economic development, improving living conditions of the poor and the planning and management of settlements;

   (b) Use of energy by households and in construction and in production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources which are new and renewable and which minimize pollution problems.

7. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1992-1993.

8. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1992-1993.

9. Coordination matters:

   (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

   (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

   (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

10. Themes for the fourteenth and future sessions of the Commission.

11. Other matters.

12. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fourteenth session of the Commission.

13. Adoption of the report of the session.

14. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 29 April 1991, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: Agenda items 5, 6 (a) and (b), and that part of item 9 (c) relating to preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

Committee II: Agenda items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

22. Committee I held eight meetings, from 29 April to 7 May 1991, and Committee II held six meetings, from 1 to 7 May 1991. The recommendations of both committees have been incorporated into the present report.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

23. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 8th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1991.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

24. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Commission decided that its fourteenth session would be held from 26 April to 7 May 1993 at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Nairobi.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its fourteenth session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

7. Special themes:

   (a) Improvement of municipal management;

   (b) Appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery.

8. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1994-1995.

9. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995.

10. Coordination matters:

   (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

   (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

   (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

11. Themes for the fifteenth and future sessions of the Commission.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fifteenth session of the Commission.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

26. In his closing remarks the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) said that the interest and commitment which delegates had towards human settlements issues would be tested in the next few years by two important events taking place in the world of the United Nations: (a) the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and (b) the ongoing exercise on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations which had begun a few years ago and had recently picked up steam again. In the context of those events, a review would be carried out of the various programmes and activities of the United Nations and its related institutions. If, in relation to those events, Governments members of the Commission would not speak up for the human settlements sector and the institutions associated with it, namely, the Commission and the Centre, then no one should be greatly surprised if, as had often happened, the cause they represented and to which the Commission had contributed so much in the past 12 years - improving the living environment of people, particularly the millions of urban and rural poor - would once again get short-changed.

27. The Executive Director concluded that the impetus to tackle the global shelter crisis would be greatly strengthened by holding a review conference of the kind the Commission had just proposed for 1997.

28. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the Chairmen of the regional groups, and all delegates for their contributions to the successful completion of the work of the thirteenth session of the Commission.

29. In their closing statements, the representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Zimbabwe for the hospitality that they had extended to all participants and for the excellent support they had given the Commission at its thirteenth session.

30. The Chairman then declared the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements closed.

ANNEX I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its thirteenth session

		Date of adoption	Page
	A. Resolutions		
	1. Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly		
13/1	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	8 May 1991	14
13/2	United Nations Conference on Human Settlements	8 May 1991	18
	2. Other resolutions		
13/3	Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	8 May 1991	22
13/4	Participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	8 May 1991	23
13/5	Global Parliamentarians on Habitat	8 May 1991	24
13/6	Housing conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories	8 May 1991	27
13/7	Regional Training Centre on Human Settlements	8 May 1991	28
13/8	Assistance to victims of apartheid in Africa	8 May 1991	29
13/9	Shelter-sector performance indicators	8 May 1991	30
13/10	Shelter for the population affected by extreme poverty	8 May 1991	32
13/11	The development of small and medium towns		33
13/12	Use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources that are new and renewable and that minimize pollution problems	8 May 1991	34
13/13	Promoting the advancement of women in human settlements development and management	8 May 1991	36

		Date of adoption	Page
13/14	Follow-up to the decisions of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development, held at The Hague	8 May 1991	38
13/15	Coordination matters	8 May 1991	39
13/16	Governmental/non-governmental cooperation at the international level	8 May 1991	41
13/17	Water and environmental sanitation in a human settlements context	8 May 1991	42
13/18	Urban Management Programme	8 May 1991	44
13/19	Human settlements and sustainable development	8 May 1991	45

B. Decisions

13/20	Second report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	7 May 1991	51
13/21	Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1992-1993	7 May 1991	51
13/22	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1992-1993	7 May 1991	53
13/23	Coordination matters	7 May 1991	53
13/24	Themes for the fourteenth and future sessions of the Commission	7 May 1991	53

A. Resolutions

1. Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly

13/1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and requested the Commission to report biennially on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/173, in which the General Assembly considered the report entitled "First report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", a/

Recalling also Commission resolution 11/6 of 11 April 1988 and section IV.D of the Strategy, b/ which requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to ensure that the objectives and action plan of the Global Strategy are incorporated in the medium-term plan commencing 1992 and to incorporate the Strategy in the future medium-term plans and biennial work programmes of the Centre,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director entitled "Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", c/

Recognizing the importance of regular monitoring of the impact of the national shelter strategies on the shelter situation in Member States,

Having considered also the monitoring guidelines for national shelter strategies prepared by the Executive Director, d/

Having received reports from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral and multilateral institutions and non-governmental organizations on activities related to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

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a/ A/44/8/Add.1.

b/ A/43/8/Add.1, paras. 126-132.

c/ HS/C/13/3.

d/ HS/C/13/4.

Noting with satisfaction that many Governments have taken concrete steps to revise their existing national shelter strategies or to formulate new strategies based on the principles of the Global Strategy and that a large number of other Governments have taken steps to address specific issues in shelter strategies,

Noting further the active role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the only coordinating agency within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, particularly in expanding the level of technical assistance and support provided to Governments,

Recognizing also the importance for improved performance of national and local authorities, the private sector, the household sector and different actors associated with formulating, implementing and monitoring of national shelter strategies,

1. Adopts the report entitled "Second report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", including the Plan of Action for 1992-1993; e/

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit the second report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, including its plan of action through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly in accordance with the Assembly's resolution 43/181;

3. Invites Governments to intensify their efforts towards the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, using the Guidelines for National Action contained in Part III of the Global Strategy, f/ and the Plan of Action for 1992-1993, g/ involving, through national shelter coalitions or otherwise, all governmental, household-sector, private-sector, and non-governmental actors in the shelter sector, in order to achieve the objective of facilitating shelter for all by the year 2000, paying special attention to capacity building in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of shelter strategies;

4. Urges the private sector to expand its operations to provide shelter to the middle-income and low-income sectors of the population and invites Governments to work with the private sector in order to create an adequate legal framework in areas such as finance, taxation, regulation, standards and procedures affecting the shelter sector;

5. Urges community-based and non-governmental organizations to strengthen successful approaches to shelter problems and explore new ways to address shelter issues;

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e/ HS/C/13/5/Rev.1.

f/ A/43/8/Add.1, paras. 31-110.

g/ HS/C/13/5/Rev.1, annex.

6. Recommends that all Governments should adopt a cost-effective monitoring system for national shelter strategies taking into account, as far as is feasible, the guidelines prepared by the Executive Director;

7. Recommends also that all Governments, in consultation as appropriate with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking local conditions into account, develop and apply indicators for assessing the performance of the national shelter sector;

8. Urges Governments to prepare annual progress reports, using the monitoring guidelines for national shelter strategies and other indicators for the performance of the shelter sector, and publicize them within their countries, particularly on World Habitat Day, and also submit them to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in order to enable the Executive Director to prepare his reports on the implementation of the Strategy for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements;

9. Requests the Executive Director to continue to use the Global Strategy as an overall guide for the Centre's work programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and for all biennial work programmes up to the year 2000;

10. Also requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral and multilateral institutions and non-governmental organizations to extend further assistance to Governments to intensify national action in the implementation of the Global Strategy;

11. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Commission at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the next phase of the Global Strategy;

12. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption, at its forty-sixth session, of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in whith it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

"Recalling also its resolution 44/173 of 19 December 1989, in which it considered the First Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, h/ submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 43/181,

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h/ A/44/8/Add.1.

"Recognizing that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 provides a framework for Governments to facilitate adequate shelter for all and that, through shelter and services, the Strategy also addresses the alleviation of poverty, the improvement of health, the participation of women, the improvement of the living environment of the people and the promotion of sustainable development,

"Emphasizing that the operational focus for promoting the objective of facilitating shelter for all is action at the national level within the framework of national shelter strategies which are integrated with macro-economic policies for optimum utilization of natural and human resources and based on standards that are nationally appropriate and socially acceptable,

"Emphasizing also that the adoption of enabling shelter strategies can mobilize resources on a sustainable basis and facilitate access to available resources by all population groups,

"Noting that such mobilization of national resources through enabling shelter strategies could partially alleviate economic constraints that affect many countries,

"Having considered the second report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, i/

"Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments have initiated or reformulated national shelter strategies, based on the principles of enabling all actors in the shelter sector, and that many other Governments have initiated action on particular components of a national shelter strategy,

"Noting also with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international levels for the implementation of the Strategy,

"1. Commends Governments which are revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

"2. Urges those Governments which have not already initiated action towards formulation of a national shelter strategy based on the enabling principles or have taken only tentative steps so far to increase their efforts using the Guidelines for National Action contained in the Strategy involving governmental, private sector and non-governmental

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i/ A/46/8/Add.1.

actors in the shelter sector, assuring the participation of men and women and paying special attention to gender issues in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national shelter strategies in order to achieve the objective of facilitating shelter for all by the year 2000;

"3. Recommends that all Governments adopt a cost-effective system for monitoring progress of the national shelter strategy and adopt as far as is feasible guidelines prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

"4. Further urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies following, for instance, the synopsis of environmental check points, contained in the report of the Executive Director on the significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to the concept of sustainable development; j/

"5. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

"6. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, and particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide increased financial and other support to Governments for the implementation of the Strategy's Plan of Action;

"7. Adopts the Plan of Action for 1992-1993 for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and urges all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action."

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/2. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, k/ held at Vancouver in 1976 which have formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

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j/ HS/C/13/6, annex 1.

k/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigenda), chap. II.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 which set up the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Noting that the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre have considerably advanced research and development, information dissemination and technical cooperation in the field of human settlements and that many Governments, basing their policies and programmes on the above recommendations, have made substantial advances in improving human settlements,

Noting also that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987 and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 succeeded in substantially increasing awareness and in providing a specific strategy for national action in the critical areas of shelter and services, within the overall framework for development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director entitled "Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000" 1/ and having prepared and adopted its second biennial report to the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, m/

Recognizing that while substantial progress has been achieved in human settlements at the national and international levels during the past decade, past experience as well as current trends and developments and projections in human settlements and related fields of poverty, population, environment and development make it clear that there is a need for an in-depth review and assessment of the strategies that have been put in place, with a view to integrating human settlements activities fully and realistically in the overall development agenda for the twenty-first century,

Recognizing also that planning and development of human settlements can greatly enhance social and economic development and thereby contribute to alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development,

Considering that, therefore, it is highly opportune to convene in time for the beginning of the next century a United Nations conference on human settlements to review past policies and set a strategy and guidelines for the beginning of the new century for action at the national, regional and international levels,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption, at its forty-sixth session, of the following draft resolution:

1/ HS/C/13/3.

m/ HS/C/13/5/Rev.1.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the recommendations of Habitat: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, which form the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

"Recalling also its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 in which it set up the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in order to, inter alia, achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

"Noting with appreciation that the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, in line with the objectives and the responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, have succeeded in placing human settlements higher on the agenda for national action and international cooperation and in promoting increased understanding on the links between people, settlements, environment and development,

"Noting also that the successive work programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have addressed all the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and, in addition, have provided specific guidance in various fields of human settlements, such as shelter, urban management, the role of women, training, community participation, finance, building materials, environment and sustainable development,

"Noting in particular that, since the establishment of the Commission and of the Centre, Governments have achieved substantial advances in planning, development and management of human settlements, thus improving living conditions of a large number of the population,

"Noting further that the bilateral and multilateral agencies and institutions have gradually increased their emphasis and level of technical and other assistance in the field of human settlements,

"Noting also that non-governmental and community-based organizations and the private sector have increased their contributions towards improving living conditions and building new shelter and settlements,

"Recognizing that programmes such as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless observed in 1987 and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, currently under implementation, provide the framework for focusing on the critical issue of shelter and services, and have succeeded in substantially increasing awareness and in placing the provision of shelter and services in the broader context of social and economic development,

"Noting with concern that, in many developing countries the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living conditions of their population, both in the urban and rural areas,

"Recognizing moreover that past experience as well as current trends and developments and projections in human settlements and related fields of poverty, population, environment and development make it clear that there is a need for an in-depth review and assessment of the strategies that have been put in place,

"Convinced that proper planning, development and management of human settlements will lead to economic and social progress and thereby alleviate poverty and promote development which is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run,

"Convinced that a world-wide conference with broad, multidisciplinary and high-level participation can provide a suitable forum for considering the current situation in the planning, development and management of human settlements within the context of the prevailing and expected social, economic and environmental contexts,

"Considering that such a conference should, inter alia:

"(a) Review trends in policies and programmes undertaken by countries and international organizations to implement the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976;

"(b) Conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and, if necessary, make recommendations which would ensure the realization of the objectives of the Strategy by the Year 2000;

"(c) In the light of the experience gained review and determine the substantive role and contribution of the human settlements sector in the light of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"(d) Review trends in economic and social development as they affect planning and development of human settlements and make recommendations for future action at national and international levels,

"Bearing in mind its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 on the pattern of conferences,

"1. Decides to consider at its forty-seventh session the question of convening, possibly in 1997, a United Nations conference on human settlements (Habitat II) with the view to taking a decision at that session on the objectives, content, scope, and timing of such a conference and the modalities and financial implications of holding the conference;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to prepare a report on (a) the objectives, content and scope of such a conference; and (b) preparations and other modalities for the conference; and to include a statement on the financial implications of the preparations for and convening of the conference;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventy session."

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the above resolution, to report on the preparations of the report on a possible United Nations conference on human settlements to Governments through Permanent Representatives, focal points or government-designated officials and to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

2. Other resolutions

13/3. Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985, in which it decided that on an experimental basis, sessions of the Commission would be held only during odd-numbered years as of 1987, and General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 which welcomed that decision,

Conscious of the need to establish during intersessional periods a regular system of consultation among Governments and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Having considered the note by the secretariat on legal and financial implications of establishing a Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), n/

Recalling also its resolution 12/8 of 3 May 1989, in which it decided that the informal committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and/or government-designated officials should continue to ensure liaison between Governments and the Executive Director between sessions of the Commission,

Having noted with appreciation the positive results achieved by regular informal meetings of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) during past years, in particular as regards preparations for sessions of the Commission,

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* Adopted by 21 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions.

n/ HS/C/12/Add.1.

Recognizing that meeting servicing as was provided during meetings between the Executive Director and the informal committee of Permanent Representatives and embassy focal points in Nairobi and/or government-designated officials can continue to be provided at no additional cost and be absorbed within existing resources,

1. Decides to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to meet at least four times a year with the committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to review progress in the implementation of the programme of the Centre and Commission resolutions, as well as specific issues proposed by the Permanent Representatives or the Executive Director, and to report the recommendations of the committee to the Commission;

2. Recommends that the dates and agenda of such meetings should be determined in consultations between the Executive Director and the Permanent Representatives;

3. Requests the Executive Director to provide the committee, within available resources, services and facilities of the same kind as those he has provided in the past to the meetings of the informal committee of Permanent Representatives.

8th plenary meeting
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13/4. Participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, recognized the need to strengthen international cooperation in rendering assistance in cases of environmental emergency,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, in which the Council, inter alia, made an urgent appeal to all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to provide all appropriate assistance in full coordination and cooperation with ongoing or planned efforts by elements of that system, to mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/190 of 21 December 1990, in which the General Assembly, having expressed profound concern about the ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at Chernobyl, which had had serious national and international consequences of an unprecedented scale, requested the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in considering possible technical and other special assistance for the areas most affected, particularly in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist

Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, to bear in mind the unprecedented nature of the radiological and environmental disaster and of the emergency situation in those areas resulting from the long-term effect of man-made radiation on present and future generations,

Taking into account the need to continue to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident, especially in safeguarding the health of the population, including, as appropriate, its resettlement in uncontaminated areas, improving the environment in contaminated areas and preventing further possible transboundary radioactive effects,

Also taking into account that, in the era of universal development of nuclear energy and nuclear technology, radiological environmental disasters are a major challenge of international scope, in view of their specific nature, and that there is a need to gain world-wide experience, to study further and to elaborate measures to mitigate the consequences of large-scale accidents at nuclear installations, which are of global significance for the survival of mankind,

Conscious of the urgent need for the planning and implementation of settlements projects for large numbers of people evacuated from vast contaminated areas,

Taking note of the relevant chapter of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, o/ which outlines the contribution and the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the planning of activities relevant to the resettlement of the population from the radiation-affected areas,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made so far in implementing Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/50 and General Assembly resolution 45/190;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Coordinator of the United Nations Chernobyl programme to identify, drawing upon existing expertise within available resources and, as well as possible, extrabudgetary resources, projects for the resettlement of people from the affected areas, and to make efforts in accelerating the implementation of the project of technical cooperation in the field of human settlements in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the area most affected by the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session on the implementation of this resolution.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

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o/ A/45/643.

13/5. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the meetings of Parliamentarians around the globe, at Yokohama, Japan, in October 1987, and at New Delhi in April 1988, and Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in April 1989 on the occasion of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements respectively,

Further recalling the Global Parliamentarians Conference on Human Settlements and Development held in Tokyo in September 1990,

Noting that the fifth meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat is being held at Harare in April 1991 on the occasion of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Recognizing the importance of the Tokyo Declaration on Human Settlements and Development in mobilizing political support and will for higher priority for the settlements sector within the context of sustainable development,

1. Takes note of the decisions and recommendations made at the fifth meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat as annexed;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to extend support to the Conference of Global Parliamentarians on Human Settlements and Development to be held in Canada to the extent that voluntary contributions are made available for that purpose.

8th plenary meeting
5 May 1991

ANNEX

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

HARARE, 30 APRIL TO 1 MAY 1991

The fifth meeting of the Global Parliamentarians was held on 30 April and 1 May 1991 at Harare during the course of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

Senator T. Nakanishi, Chairman of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, opened the meeting and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) made a statement.

The following is a summary of the meeting:

1. The Chairman informed the meeting of the progress made since the Tokyo Conference. The Tokyo Declaration had been handed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

2. In her opening remarks, the Chairman highlighted the role of Parliamentarians and drew particular attention to the critical linkages between the natural and living environments.

3. Parliamentarians who attended the meeting provided information about the establishment of National Parliamentarian Groups or Committees on Habitat in their countries, as called for by the Tokyo Declaration.

4. It was felt that future meetings should be based on selected topics, such as land and legislation, among others, based on a theme. The discussions should also deal with political aspects of the problem.

5. The importance of the dissemination of information on legislation and the exchange of experiences among Parliamentarians was also stressed. In this connection, the meeting felt that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) serial publications might be used to exchange information.

6. The meeting endorsed the view that more dwellings should be built, which would raise the level of living comfort for the people and would create a living environment in human settlements adequate for human beings, and that appropriate measures should be taken in that direction.

7. The Parliamentarians at the meeting accepted the offer of the Canadian Parliamentarians to host the next Global Parliamentarian Conference at Vancouver, B.C., Canada, in March 1992, and extended its appreciation to the Canadian Parliamentarians.

8. The meeting unanimously endorsed the continuation of the chairmanship of Senator T. Nakanishi, and agreed to defer the establishment of a bureau to the next meeting.

13/6. Housing conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the Question of Palestine, in particular, resolution 42/190 dated 11 December 1987 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/120 dated 17 December 1985 concerning the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 465/1980 and the remaining United Nations resolutions that view the Israeli settlement policies as illegitimate and a serious obstacle for the peace process,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Executive Director on housing requirements for the Palestinian people, p/

1. Reiterates its resolution 12/11 of 2 May 1989, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to intensify efforts to follow up those paragraphs of the resolution that have not been implemented yet and submit a report to the Commission at its fourteenth session;

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* Adopted by 21 votes to 1, with 15 absentions.

In favour: Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Egypt, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Absent: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

The representative of Zimbabwe later indicated that, had his delegation been present, it would have voted in favour.

p/ HS/C/13/2/Add.1.

2. Condemns the Israeli refusal of the dispatch of a fact-finding mission from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the occupied Palestinian territories to investigate the housing conditions of the Palestinian people, that had been endorsed by the Commission during its twelfth session;

3. Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to implement its national shelter strategy within the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

4. Condemns strongly the continuation of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories and the housing of new settlers in them;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director and in cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, to devise a plan for the implementation of a shelter strategy for the Palestinian people to the year 2000, as contained in the report of the Executive Director on the housing requirements of the Palestinian people, together with the provision of necessary funds;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on the implementation of this resolution at its fourteenth session.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/7. Regional Training Centre on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 9/4 of 16 May 1986, requesting the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to accelerate and finalize the steps needed to establish a specialized regional training centre for human settlements activities at Amman,

Recalling also its request to the Executive Director to submit to the Commission at its session in 1989 a full report on what was accomplished in that regard,

Being aware that the aforementioned report was not submitted to the Commission at its twelfth session held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 1989,

Noting that a comprehensive programme was prepared with the cooperation of the host country, Jordan, which included training courses for a two-year period, but that only two courses have been completed to date,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take the necessary steps to activate the training centre and to hold the training courses as contained in the suggested programme during the coming two years;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare a full report on the implementation of this resolution to be presented to the Commission at its fourteenth session.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/8. Assistance to victims of apartheid in Africa

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 November 1981 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, and General Assembly resolution 42/23 of 20 November 1987 on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa,

Further recalling its resolutions 5/19 of 7 May 1982, 6/11 of 5 May 1983, 7/3 of 9 May 1984, 8/18 of 8 May 1985, 9/7 of 16 May 1986, 10/5 of 16 April 1987, 11/11 of 12 April 1988 and 12/3 of 2 May 1989,

Aware of the deplorable living conditions to which the majority population is being subjected by the apartheid regime in South Africa,

Also aware of the policy of forced mass removal of the African population from their homes by the apartheid regime,

Concerned about the consideration of land legislation without consulting the landless and homeless Black communities of South Africa,

1. Strongly condemns the Pretoria apartheid regime for its policy of forced mass removal of the African population from their homes and the hardship caused thereby through the imprisonment of women and men opposing these removals;

2. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made thus far in implementing Commission resolutions 11/11 and 12/3;

3. Commends States members of the Organization of African Unity and all other supporting members of the international community for their unswerving support of the struggle against apartheid;

4. Calls upon the international community to support the national liberation movements in their rejection of proposals to promulgate new legislation on land without involvement and in complete disregard of the needs of the landless and homeless Black community in South Africa, and further urges the Government and Parliament of South Africa to consult the African community with the objective of developing fair and equitable land policies and legislation;

5. Also calls upon the international community to continue providing material and financial assistance to the displaced and homeless victims of apartheid;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue and intensify his efforts for the provision of increased technical training and other forms of assistance to victims of apartheid, pursuant to Commission resolutions 11/11 and 12/3.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/9. Shelter-sector performance indicators

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling further its resolution 12/1 of 3 May 1989, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director to prepare guidelines for cost-effective national monitoring of the progress towards realizing the goals of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and in which it urged all Governments gradually to set in place the monitoring system proposed,

Having considered the substance and the findings of the Third International Shelter Conference held in Washington, D.C., in April 1990,

Recognizing the creation of the ad hoc International Shelter Coalition at the First International Shelter Conference in 1984 and the Coalition's objective to encourage the creation of regional shelter coalitions,

Recognizing further the contributions of non-governmental organizations and of the Habitat International Coalition,

Recognizing also that previous resolutions of the Commission as well as the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Third International Shelter Conference clearly reaffirm the importance of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and the necessity for greater efforts on the part of Governments to establish enabling frameworks which can facilitate the efficient and equitable production of adequate housing for all,

Recognizing further the importance of the ability objectively to quantify national progress relative to the goals of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the need to provide accurate and timely information for efficient functioning of domestic housing markets as well as for effective allocation of the limited international assistance,

1. Calls upon Member States to make provision for an early introduction of a database information system in line with national requirements and conditions with a view to facilitate decision-making, planning, implementation, monitoring, and creation of awareness as well as to assist research work to direct and redirect the housing and infrastructure process focused towards the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to achieve shelter for all by the year 2000;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in conjunction with international organizations, and volunteering member countries, to complete the design of and test the internationally comparable set of appropriate key quantitative and policy-sensitive indicators currently under development by the Centre and the World Bank g/ which are designed to assist Governments in monitoring progress towards a well-functioning shelter sector in accordance with the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

3. Recommends that requesting Governments be provided technical and financial assistance in the collection and maintenance of data on the shelter indicators by the international community;

4. Also requests the Executive Director, to the extent that resources are made available, to develop and implement a database method for collection, analysis, maintenance and dissemination of the national indicator data on a biannual basis;

5. Recommends that Governments prepare reports on progress towards meeting the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 based on the initial set of the key quantitative and policy-sensitive indicators for presentation during the fourteenth session of the Commission;

6. Recommends also that at least one day of the fourteenth session of the Commission in 1993 under the agenda item on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 be devoted to a debate on "Monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", with the objective of examining the adequacy and appropriateness of the monitoring programme to produce national reports capable of measuring real progress in housing and reviewing the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to ensure that adequate professional, administrative and financial resources are available to maintain the monitoring programme at high standards;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare a special report on "Monitoring the Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000" as part of his report to the Commission and in preparation for the debate;

8. Encourages the creation of regional shelter coalitions which will sponsor and conduct preparatory meetings in 1994 of the public, private and non-governmental sectors organized in consultation with the ad hoc International Shelter Coalition, the Habitat International Coalition and similar non-governmental bodies;

9. Recommends also that one of the two themes of the fifteenth session of the Commission in 1995 be "Review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in 1976", including steps to be taken in the final quinquennium of the century to advance the goal of adequate housing for all by the year 2000.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

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g/ See HS/C/13/INF.7, annex.

13/10. Shelter for the population affected by extreme poverty

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development",

Recalling also decision 1/28 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which calls on the Commission to pay specific attention to the agenda and mandate of the Conference as given in General Assembly resolution 44/228, with particular reference to the living and working environments of the poor in urban slums and rural areas,

Noting the failure of the present policies to cater adequately for the special circumstances of the group affected by extreme poverty - the underemployed and the unemployed, marginalized if not excluded, from the processes of production and consumption,

Recognizing that this group continues to increase in numbers in all countries, while the economic situation worldwide continues to deteriorate, thereby constraining national and international efforts to alleviate this critical problem,

Accepting that the Global Strategy concept of providing "shelter for all" must embrace this most disadvantaged section of humankind,

Deeply concerned at the widening gap between the need for shelter and the growing inability of the world community to meet that need,

Cognizant of the negative impact of unplanned, inadequate, overcrowded and non-existent shelter on the environment,

Acknowledging that given the nature of its operation, the private sector may only engage in non-profit making activities on a voluntary and community-service basis,

Aware that the possible source for funding solutions to this problem must involve all levels of Government, with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral agencies, and in cooperation with private-sector and non-governmental organizations,

Aware also that investment in housing the victims of extreme poverty is an investment in reducing resource allocations to other social and economic problems such as crime, deteriorating health standards and low productivity,

1. Decides to urge Governments, particularly in developing countries, to consider a reallocation of resources and to explore innovative financing mechanisms towards alleviation of the deplorable lack of adequate shelter for marginal societal groups;

2. Recommends that Governments review and, where appropriate, modify and amend on a realistic basis building regulations, planning standards, land policy, legislation and taxation, to facilitate and increase housing stock for these population groups;

3. Urges multilateral, bilateral and other funding agencies to adopt more favourable consideration to providing grant funds and, where appropriate, concessionary loans to assist developing countries to address this serious and urgent social problem;

4. Urges Governments to introduce a mechanism to channel the vast labour resources available within the group of the critically poor towards useful contributions to the housing sector, including construction of their own shelter;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue and intensify research into innovative least-cost construction solutions, and new methods of finance mobilization towards shelter for the critically poor;

6. Further requests the Executive Director within available resources to prepare a study in consultation with the International Labour Organisation, on the relationship between underemployment and unemployment and shelter provision, including integrated employment-linked shelter-delivery options, for submission to the fourteenth session of the Commission;

7. Suggests that the available findings and recommendations evolving from such a study be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in order to ensure consideration of this issue by Heads of States and Governments at that Conference.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/11. The development of small and medium towns

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Considering the strategies adopted by many member countries to achieve the objectives of the Strategy, such as the supply of land, provision of infrastructure, strengthening the institutional capacity (particularly the management capabilities of local authorities) creating conditions to prevent rapid migration to big cities and making rural and smaller town areas more attractive,

Considering the need to promote the development of small and medium towns and rural centres in keeping with the requirement to relieve the housing, infrastructure, and migration issues in already congested big cities and to provide better infrastructure services and housing facilities in smaller urban centres to make them more attractive,

1. Recommends that Governments intensify their efforts to strengthen the management capabilities of local authorities with special emphasis at the lowest level and in close cooperation, whenever possible, with local

non-governmental organizations, and that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in collaboration with the relevant agencies provide technical and financial assistance for this endeavour, to the extent that the resources are made available;

2. Urges Governments to promote preparation of medium- and long-term plans for tertiary- and secondary-level urban centres in addition to bigger cities, according to a rational order with special focus on land utilization, infrastructure, services and housing;

3. Requests the international community to the extent that resources are made available to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to assist Governments in achieving these objectives by way of financial and technical assistance;

4. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session on the promotion and implementation of the recommendations of this resolution.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/12. Use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources that are new and renewable and that minimize pollution problems

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also its resolutions 11/5 of 11 April 1988 and 12/21 of 2 May 1989,

Recognizing that energy is an essential component in meeting basic human needs, in stimulating and supporting economic growth and in enhancing the quality of life in human settlements,

Further recognizing the importance of using available resources efficiently to promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency, and the importance of improving coordination within the United Nations system with these objectives in mind,

Noting that indiscriminate and poorly managed use of biomass as the main source of household energy is leading to environmental degradation as well as indoor air pollution causing illness, particularly among women and children, in rural subsistence societies and urban low-income settlements,

Also noting that, even where the household sector has been the target of energy-saving policies, further substantial reduction of the use of energy is possible and essential,

Aware that, in order to increase the supply of shelter, it is essential to lower the energy intensity of building-material production world wide and to increase use of low-energy indigenous materials, while in order to reduce pollution it is essential to increase the use of recycled materials, including industrial and agricultural wastes,

Observing that the critical relationship between energy and human settlements has often been ignored in building-material production technologies and construction techniques,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources that are new and renewable and that minimize pollution problems; r/

2. Recommends that Governments should consider implementing the measures described in the report of the Executive Director;

3. Emphasizes that sustainable development of human settlements can best be achieved through rational, judicious and efficient use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials;

4. Recommends also that wherever possible, Governments encourage the use of proven renewable technologies to become part of the mainstream of development planning;

5. Urges Governments to be responsive to the fact that women are the main end-users of energy at the household level, and that policies to improve energy efficiency must be based on an understanding of the users' attitudes, behaviour patterns and motivation for change;

6. Calls upon Governments to encourage improving energy efficiency and pollution control by design of buildings and in building-materials production and construction industries, for example through increased use of low-energy materials and recycled and waste materials in construction, improvements in traditional energy-intensive building-material production technologies and promotion of renewable-energy-based production technologies;

7. Further recommends that Governments provide necessary incentives to energy-conservation programmes and investments and discourage wasteful polluting use of energy in the household, construction and production of building-materials sectors;

8. Further urges Governments to promote appropriate standards, specifications and building regulations, according to each country's economic conditions to reduce energy consumption in the operation of buildings and to support clean, energy-efficient technologies in the household, construction and production of building-materials sectors;

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r/ HS/C/13/7.

9. Calls upon the international community to support programmes of improvements in energy efficiency and pollution control in the household, construction and production of building-materials sectors, with emphasis on developing countries;

10. Further recommends that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) strengthen coordination with relevant United Nations organizations, including the secretariat for the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and appropriate intergovernmental organizations;

11. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to include in the work programme of the Centre the preparation of technical publications, background studies on marketability, profitability and consumer acceptance, and the organization of demonstration projects to promote new and renewable sources of energy and energy-efficient and clean technologies in the household sector, in the production of building materials and in on-site construction operations in developing countries;

12. Further appeals to Governments and the international community to facilitate the establishment and operation of research, demonstration and information-dissemination organizations, to create awareness of and to disseminate the results of research on new and renewable and energy-efficient technologies in developing countries.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/13. Promoting the advancement of women in human settlements development and management

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 on "monitoring and review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", s/

Concerned at the delay in implementing the Strategies,

Aware of the need to adopt urgent measures to facilitate the implementation of effective programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Strategies aiming at a full and equal participation of women in the development process,

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s/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10, chap. I, sect. A).

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, which enhances women's participation in shelter and infrastructure management, as contributors and beneficiaries, while integrating women's activities within all mainstream development activities,

Recognizing the role of women in shelter issues as a key component in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181,

1. Urges Governments to identify the methods within shelter strategy development and implementation, that reveal and strengthen the role of women in settlement and development;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to strengthen the role and competence of the Centre in gender-sensitive shelter strategy development, and to increase its efforts to provide support to Governments in this field;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to review and develop a more comprehensive policy on Women in Development which ensures gender-sensitive methods in the total work programme and budget of all the divisions within the Centre, in a manner that relates gender-sensitivity training to specific technical aspects of the work of Professional staff members of the Centre;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to manage the financial resources of the Centre so that there is adequate financial and administrative support to the Women in Development focal point of the Centre, within the resources already available;

5. Invites Governments and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to develop a closer cooperation with the Habitat International Coalition Women and Shelter Network and similar non-governmental organizations at national, regional and international levels;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in this resolution.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/14. Follow-up to the decisions of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development, held at The Hague

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 12/18 of 2 May 1989 on the theme "Human settlements in relation to the concept of sustainable development" and the contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements to the preparations for a United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992,

Welcoming the fact that a broad-based (high-level) intergovernmental discussion and review of the crucial issues involved took place at The Hague, the Netherlands, from 5 to 9 November 1990, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands,

Appreciative of the fact that 56 Member States of the United Nations attended the discussion and review held at The Hague and decided to propose several concrete actions in relation to the future work of the Commission on Human Settlements, as contained in annex II to the Statement of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development, t/

Aware that that annex contained the following proposals for future work of the Commission:

A list of building materials and components be drawn up which are potentially environmentally harmful;

An inventory be made of the research done by prominent research institutions worldwide in the field of human settlements and sustainable development;

An analysis be made to assist States in their performance with regard to integrated life-cycle management, quality improvement, and efficiency in energy use in the field of housing, building and planning;

An analysis be made of the environmental impact of activities of major firms involved in the production, import and export of building and construction materials and components;

A selective evaluation be made of large-scale (new) settlement developments - particularly those supported by international funding - as to their environmental sustainability;

A study be made on the feasibility of establishing an international system or network for exchange and transfer of information and documentation on human settlements and sustainable development;

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t/ See HS/C/13/8/Add.1.

An inventory be made of training institutions for human settlements and sustainable development to facilitate the training of personnel for settlements management in all regions;

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to implement the above proposals, to the extent that resources are being made available and in cooperation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, as may be appropriate, and further requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on progress to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session, while making information available and circulating it to Governments in a report by 30 April 1992, on the understanding that the proposal that an analysis be made of the environmental impact of activities of major firms involved in its production, import and export of building and construction materials be broadened to cover an analysis of the environmental impact of the entire building and construction industry;

2. Appeals to Governments to assist in the implementation of the proposals by providing the necessary resources, in cash and/or in kind.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/15. Coordination matters

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 10/7, of 16 May 1987, and 12/19, of 2 May 1989, on coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 10/3, of 16 April 1987, on cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 34/114, of 14 December 1979, on cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development will be reviewed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with a view to further enhancing coordination and cooperation on environment and development issues,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Programme and Coordination, u/ on coordination and cooperation within the United Nations

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u/ HS/C/13/14/Add.2.

system, y/ on cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations, w/ as well as the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and of the United Nations Environment Programme, x/

Welcoming the substantial expansion of cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other organizations within the United Nations system, in particular within the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Noting with satisfaction the development of new inter-agency cooperative programmes in the fields of urban management, environmental health, disasters, energy and information systems,

Also noting the significant contributions made by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the work of other organizations in the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies in relation to the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations International Development Decade, to the preparatory work of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the World Health Organization's Commission on Health and Environment through the work of its Urbanization Panel,

Expressing satisfaction with progress on coordination as described in the reports of the Executive Director, especially in the areas of national policies and strategies, and settlement management, with particular emphasis on urban management and infrastructure,

1. Welcomes the increasing cooperations between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme in four established areas and within system-wide efforts of the United Nations and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue and intensify this cooperation;

2. Welcomes also the initiative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in launching the Sustainable Cities Programme which can serve as a vehicle for further enhancing inter-agency cooperation;

3. Decides that coordination and cooperation should continue and be further improved in the areas decided on by the Commission at its twelfth session and in addition should consider the following complementary areas:

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y/ HS/C/13/12.

w/ HS/C/13/13.

x/ HS/C/13/11.

(a) Energy, with particular emphasis on programmes for energy-efficient human settlements;

(b) Transport, with particular emphasis on energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive urban transport;

(c) Natural and man-made disasters;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit the text of the present resolution together with the relevant parts of the report of the Executive Director on the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-first session, as the Commission's response to the Committee's recommendations on coordination matters at its thirteenth session and its decision regarding new complementary areas for cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system in the human settlements field;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to submit the text of the present resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for appropriate action.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/16. Governmental/non-governmental cooperation at the international level

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 10/15 of 16 April 1987 which, inter alia, calls for the creation of national shelter coalitions through which Governments may help to mobilize non-governmental resources in partnerships devoted to the provision, expansion and improvement of shelter for all, with special attention to the problems confronting low-income families,

Also recalling resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 by which the General Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 which states that "enabling policies, whereby the full potential and resources of all governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of human settlements are utilized, must be at the heart of national and international efforts",

Bearing in mind the growing recognition by Governments and international organizations that for the achievement of development goals intensive cooperation between governmental and non-governmental sectors is essential,

Desirous to extend this cooperation to the international realm of human settlement activities,

Conscious of the important contribution which non-governmental and community-based organizations can make, inter alia, to the international and regional consultations on shelter policies and to the planning and execution of technical assistance programmes,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to examine the possibilities for convening a meeting of governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations' representatives at which all aspects, possibilities and modalities for increased international government/non-governmental cooperation in the field of human settlements will be discussed, provided additional means become available.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/17. Water and environmental sanitation in a human settlements context

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", which stated that among issues of major concern to the Conference were:

(a) Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources;

(b) Protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life;

(c) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas;

Noting the decision by the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first session to invite the Commission on Human Settlements to make a substantive contribution to the Conference with particular reference to the living and working conditions of the poor in urban slums and rural areas,

Noting also the decision by the Preparatory Committee at its second session to pay special attention to the protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources, including, inter alia, the need to provide, on a sustainable basis, access to safe water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 45/181 of December 1990 on the review and follow-up of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in which it was recognized that the 1990s will require an intensification of national efforts and international cooperation to provide adequate and safe drinking water and sanitation for all by the end of the century,

Convinced that in this context the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) can make a significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the convening of an international conference, at government expert level, on water and the environment, in January 1992, as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the kind offer of the Government of Ireland to host that conference, hereinafter called the Dublin Conference,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take an active part in the concerted and consolidated effort by the United Nations system to elaborate an action-oriented outcome of the Dublin Conference, in particular concerning the human settlements and urban dimension of the international programmes and national action plans;

2. Recommends that a major objective of national efforts and international cooperation be the provision of safe water and environmental sanitation for all;

3. Further recommends that the following aspects be reflected in the programmes and plans:

(a) The vital importance of water as a finite and fragile resource;

(b) The development of effective water-resource management at appropriate administrative levels within the concept of integrated water-resource management;

(c) The concepts established within the "Health for all Strategy" of the World Health Organization, the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and the New Delhi Statement;

(d) The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, with emphasis on the enabling and participatory approach, including the integration of women and local and community efforts;

(e) Commitment by the international community to provide the resources needed to augment national efforts to achieve the objectives, including the role of the United Nations and of the multilateral financial organizations such as the World Bank and regional development banks;

4. Requests the Executive Director to cooperate closely with other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in elaborating the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) contributions to the Dublin Conference;

5. Requests the Executive Director to participate in and make a substantive contribution to the Dublin Conference;

6. Requests the Executive Director to give high priority in the work programme for 1992-1993 for the specific human settlements and urban dimension of water and environmental sanitation.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/18. Urban Management Programme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission at the present session calling for a major effort to strengthen multilateral cooperation in order to resolve the urgent problems facing the global society,

Recalling also the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to the present session urging proposals for action,

Recognizing that the United Nations Development Programme/World Bank/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Urban Management Programme, as described in the report of the Executive Director on coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, y/ deals with the issues of effective management of land, finance and administration, infrastructure, and the environment that are pertinent to human settlements and development and is beginning to focus its efforts on building capacity at the national and local levels,

Recalling further the presentation by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme, that the Urban Management Programme will be a major programme during the next five-year programming cycle,

Recognizing also that this vehicle for multilateral cooperation is supported by several members of the Commission,

Recognizing further that several members of the Commission are strongly interested in participating in the capacity-building phase of the Programme,

1. Requests that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in conjunction with its partners in the Urban Management Programme, should accelerate the availability of its first phase products (policy framework papers, tools and discussion series papers) to members and develop mechanisms to respond rapidly and effectively to the demand for participation in the Urban Management Programme and the related Sustainable Cities Programme capacity-building activities, involving wherever feasible relevant non-governmental organizations in the planning and execution of the programme;

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y/ HS/C/13/12.

2. Urges the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to insure the incorporation of women's perspectives in the planning, strategy and implementation of all levels in the Urban Management Programme;

3. Recommends that member Governments extend and deepen partnership arrangements with the Urban Management Programme and utilize it as a mechanism for increasing collaboration and coordination in addressing the urgent issue of managing human settlements.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

13/19. Human settlements and sustainable development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 12/18 of 2 May 1989 in which it:

(a) Declared its readiness to take an active part in the preparations for a forthcoming United Nations conference on environment and development, particularly regarding the human settlements implications, including shelter provision and production, regional planning and the production and use of energy;

(b) Recommended to the General Assembly that the critical role and contribution of human settlements and urbanization to environmentally sound and sustainable development and the impact of human settlements and urbanization upon the environment should be among the issues to be considered and addressed within the context of a United Nations conference on environment and development;

(c) Expressed its conviction that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 represents an important part of the human settlements dimension of sustainable development;

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", in which the Assembly affirmed that among issues of major concern to the Conference were:

(a) Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources;

(b) Protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life;

(c) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, through the eradication of poverty;

Recalling further decision 1/28 of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in which the Committee invited the Commission on Human Settlements to make a substantive contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference,

Aware that the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, on the basis of a decision taken at its second session, may discuss in the course of its third session, to be held in Geneva from 12 August to 16 September 1991, proposals related to human settlements for "Agenda 21", which will be adopted by the Conference,

Drawing attention to the fact that poverty-related problems, which create a great risk of further negative impacts on shelter and infrastructure supply, as well as on environmental quality, require urgent action to improve the quality of life of the 1 billion disadvantaged people in the world, particularly in urban slums as well as in many rural areas,

Noting with satisfaction the close working relationship established between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the secretariat of the Conference on the above issues and the active participation of the Centre in the preparatory work of the Conference,

Mindful of the definition of sustainable development, contained in General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs",

Recognizing that urban environment and human settlements issues are inextricably linked to sustainable development and that global efforts must be made to build urban and human settlements management capacity through coordinated efforts,

Noting with deep concern the great unprecedented, unpredicted and uncontrolled expansion of cities mainly in developing countries resulting in the growth of slums and squatter settlements,

Noting also that rapid population growth constrains improvement of shelter, supportive infrastructure and health and sanitary conditions,

Deeply concerned also by the depletion of forests and trends towards desertification, and their negative impacts on human settlements,

Concerned about the special poverty problems of women and the lack of opportunities for women to improve their own living and working conditions and environment, and to participate actively in decisions about development of settlements,

Noting with concern the damage to the atmosphere caused largely by unsustainable transport patterns and inefficient energy use in human settlements especially in developed countries, largely due to the settlement structure and inefficient transport,

Further aware of the need for an increase in housing and infrastructure, based as far as possible on local resources, taking into account the need to reduce additional strain on nature's carrying capacity by the use of natural resources as raw materials and energy in the production of building materials and in the construction, maintenance and repair of buildings,

1. Endorses the report "People, Settlements, Environment and Development", z/ including the statement of the Chairman of the Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development held at The Hague in November 1990, and the theme paper on "The significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to the concept of sustainable development, with special emphasis on the relationship between economic development, improving the living conditions of the poor, the management and planning of human settlements" aa/ and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit those documents, as annexes to the present resolution, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as the Commission's substantive contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference;

2. Recommends that the preparatory process of the Conference take into full consideration substantive contributions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as contained above;

3. Stresses the importance of the integrated approach to human settlements development and management adopted by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), through the combination of research, training, technical cooperation and information;

4. Affirms that a sustainable approach to human settlements development can make an important contribution to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the improvement of the living and working environments of the urban and rural poor, the possible enhancement of employment and development opportunities created by properly planned and managed settlements and settlements systems, and the reduction of waste and pollution through appropriate policies on land-resource management, water supply, sanitation and wastewater, solid waste, energy, transport and construction-sector activities, and that therefore the issue of human settlements merits being dealt with as one of the components of "Agenda 21" to be adopted by the Conference;

5. Affirms also that human settlements relate to seven of the main issues contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228 listed below, and requests the Executive Director to make further relevant technical contributions to the preparatory process of the Conference, highlighting those aspects that may require additional financial resources to developing countries, focused on the following issues indicated below with their respective indicative annotations:

(a) Protection of the atmosphere: a more efficient use of fossil-fuel consumption and reduction of emissions through the encouragement of settlements-development patterns which minimize transport demand, the promotion of fuel-efficient modes of transport, including public transport and

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z/ See HS/C/13/14/Add.7.

aa/ HS/C/13/6.

non-motorized traffic and alternative and renewable sources of power, the design of energy-efficient buildings and the adoption of energy-saving heating and cooling solutions, and the promotion of building-materials production and construction techniques requiring lower energy inputs;

(b) Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: achievement of an efficient and equitable utilization of freshwater resources for human settlements, including quantity and quality evaluation, the promotion of a comprehensive approach to water-resource management, the adoption of water-conservation measures such as proper maintenance, upgrading and utilization of existing facilities and wastewater recycling, appropriate pricing policies, and the enforcement of water-quality standards;

(c) Protection of the oceans and coastal areas: adoption of cost-effective solutions to reduce land-based pollution from inland settlements; integrated approaches to coastal area management; and preventive measures to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, including the possible effects of sea-level rise;

(d) Protection and management of land resources: promotion of inter-sectoral and integrated approaches to land-use management; policies to prevent encroachment of ecologically fragile regions and stimulate employment generation and economic growth by encouraging the expansion of environmentally sound, non-agricultural activities in rural regions and the development of urban functions in secondary centres; and regularization and upgrading of low-income settlements to improve environmental quality in such settlements and prevent resettlement in disaster-prone and hazardous locations;

(e) Environmentally sound management of wastes: adoption of sustainable approaches to sanitation and wastewater management through the development and dissemination of innovative and affordable technologies in sanitary-waste and wastewater management; promotion of incentives to sanitation and wastewater programmes through training, public education and research demonstrating the much higher costs of poor sanitation in terms of public health, efficiency and productivity; adoption of sustainable approaches to solid-waste management including incentives for solid-waste reduction at source and waste recycling and re-use; and integration of solid-waste management programmes with other infrastructure programmes, such as water-supply, sanitation and drainage;

(f) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas: support to the adoption and implementation of national shelter strategies based on the principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the principal aim of which is to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000 through an "enabling approach" to shelter development and improvement specifically geared to the needs and circumstances of the urban and rural poor; and strengthening of the planning and management capabilities of all settlements in developing the resources and the capacity to satisfy the increasing demands of growing populations through participatory and enabling approaches, with particular emphasis on the contribution, particpation and empowerment of women;

(g) Protection of human health conditions: adoption of preventive approaches to safeguarding and enhancing human health in human settlements through the improvement of shelter, infrastructure and services according to the criteria stated above; and adoption of incentives for the production and use of unharmful building materials;

6. Emphasizes the importance of sustainable human settlements management in achieving efficient energy use and in creating opportunities for the alleviation of urban and rural poverty, and in promoting the development and transfer of environmentally sound technology, on concessional terms for developing countries, in relation to the issues listed in paragraph 5 where appropriate;

7. Recommends that, when the Preparatory Committee is considering its various issues, it should consider the question of human settlements, as outlined in paragraphs 3 to 6 above, and that the documentation mentioned in paragraph 1 be fully utilized and taken into account;

8. Recommends to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference that in the preparation of Agenda 21, to be adopted by the Conference, due attention be given to human settlements in all related issues;

9. Recommends, in particular, that, as one component of human settlements, Agenda 21, to be adopted by the Conference, include:

(a) A costed and targeted capacity-building programme for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. This programme should have a view to improving the living conditions of the poor in accordance with enabling national shelter strategies, and make special reference to the development and transfer of know-how and other inputs for the development of institutions, community participation, empowerment of women, housing finance systems, construction sector, land delivery and legislation and regulation;

(b) A costed and targeted settlements management programme with special reference to management of water resources, solid and liquid wastes and land-use management;

10. Requests the Executive Director to continue, within the mandate of the Centre and the resources available, and in cooperation with Governments and relevant agencies to provide inputs to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the preparation of its documentation for the next sessions of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference and its other relevant activities;

11. Recommends that the important and distinct role of the human settlements programmes at the national, regional and global levels, as a framework for development, be strengthened and expanded to include all aspects of an environmentally sound and sustainable approach to human settlements, taking into account the results of the Conference;

12. Requests the Executive Director to disseminate widely the documents endorsed by the Commission in the present resolution, as well as other inputs generated in connection with the preparatory process of the Conference, and to

participate in all other relevant activities associated with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the International Conference on Water and the Environment, to be held in Dublin in January 1992;

13. Urges the Executive Director, in accordance with the Global Strategy for Shelter, to emphasize work elements which can address and reverse undesirable environmental implications of settlement growth, especially in the urban slums, inter alia, by improvements in urban management;

14. Strongly urges the Executive Director as well as Governments and international organizations in their national and local work on human settlements and environmental matters, in accordance with the Global Strategy for Shelter, to take fully into account the needs of the poor in urban slums and rural areas and especially the needs of women-headed households;

15. Appeals to Government to support the Executive Director in the above initiatives;

16. Further appeals to Governments to incorporate the approach to human settlements and sustainable development, as outlined in the present resolution, in their respective inputs and, if possible, in their national reports to the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself;

17. Draws the attention of Governments and relevant organizations to the great potential available for development and improvement of the environment in many countries, through strengthened participation of women at all levels of the decision-making processes and management concerning human settlement developments;

18. Also recommends that Governments emphasize in their human settlements work the exchange of experience, personnel and materials with other countries, and particularly among developing countries;

19. Appeals to Governments in countries with environmentally and physically unsustainable urban transport patterns to develop sustainable patterns, taking into account that improved organization of alternative transport and adaptation of the urban structure could contribute to reducing the emission of toxic and greenhouse gases from motor-vehicle traffic;

20. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to facilitate the implementation by the Centre of the activities mentioned above;

21. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a report on the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with special reference to human settlements issues to be submitted to the Commission at its fourteenth session in 1993.

8th plenary meeting
8 May 1991

B. Decisions

13/20. Second report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

At its 7th plenary meeting on 7 May 1991, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the draft, prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), of the second report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, bb/ decided to incorporate into the draft the additions and amendments submitted by delegations relating to their respective countries, and to submit the revised report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

13/21. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1992-1993

At its 7th plenary meeting on 7 May 1991, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the period 1992-1993, cc/ and noting that it was largely based on previous decisions and recommendations of the Commission and that certain programme elements could not be changed because they were financed by non-programmable funds, decided that:

(a) The servicing of the Commission, which in its entirety had been given high priority in the report, could, in part, be moved to medium priority, on the understanding that it would, in any case, be carried out at about the same volume and cost as foreseen in the draft work programme, and accordingly, the following programme outputs should be moved from high to medium priority:

1.2(a)04, 1.2(a)07, 1.2(a)09, 1.2(a)14, 1.2(a)18,

1.2(a)19, 2.2(b)01, 3.2(b)01, 4.2(b)01, 5.2(b)01,

6.2(b)01, 7.2(b)01, 8.2(b)01.

(b) Certain programme outputs should be raised from medium priority to high priority, where the Commission desired the activity to be expanded if extra funds should become available, as follows:

5.3(b)02: Effectiveness of national policies in providing funds for human settlements (adding in the title, "including price and distributional results");

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bb/ HS/C/13/5.

cc/ HS/C/13/8.

6.3(b)03 (with somewhat changed title and content): Low-cost water and sanitation technology and management;

6.3(b)06: Application of biomass-energy technologies;

6.5(b)01: Workshop on biomass technologies;

8.3(b)04 (with somewhat changed title and content): Appropriate building materials and construction technology and transfer mechanisms;

8.4(a)01: Booklet on small-scale technologies for constructions;

8.4(a)02: Fact sheets on small-scale technologies for construction;

8.4(d)01: Video films on small-scale technologies for building materials; and

8.5(b)02 (with somewhat changed title and content): Workshop on appropriate building materials and construction technology and transfer mechanisms;

(c) To the extent that extrabudgetary funds became available beyond what is necessary to expand the outputs of activities mentioned above, the Commission would want to see expansions or new activities on energy-saving technology and low-cost water and sanitation, both under subprogramme 6, and transfer of technology on low-cost and environmentally favourable building materials and construction, in subprogramme 8;

(d) The following outputs, given low priority in the report, should be given medium priority;

8.3(a)02, 8.3(a)03 and 8.3(a)04: Three issues of the journal of the Network of African Countries on Local Building Material and Technologies;

8.3(b)06: Natural-disaster reduction;

(e) The following outputs, given medium priority in document HS/C/13/8, should be given low priority:

3.3(b)02: Two case studies on metropolitan management;

3.4(d)02: Film on megacities.

13/22. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1992-1993

At its 7th plenary meeting on 7 May 1991, the Commission on Human Settlements, having taken into consideration the comments made by the Advisory Committee on *Administrative and Budgetary Questions* as contained in its report dd/ on the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1992-1993, ee/ decided to approve the revised estimates for the biennium 1990-1991 and the budget proposals for the biennium 1992-1993 as contained in the report of its Executive Director, took note of the report of the Board of Auditors on the audited financial statements of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements for the biennium ended 31 December 1989, ff/ and recommended the usefulness of the biennial report on financial and other assistance provided to and among the developing countries for human settlements called for in General Assembly resolution 34/114, gg/ and recommended that adequate time be allotted in future sessions for the consideration and discussion of such reports.

13/23. Coordination matters

At its 7th plenary meeting on 7 May 1991, the Commission on Human Settlements decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to communicate his report hh/ and the report of the discussions at its thirteenth session on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation.

13/24. Themes for the fourteenth and future sessions of the Commission

At its seventh plenary session on 7 May 1991, the Commission on Human Settlements, recalling its resolution 10/9 of 16 May 1987 regarding the selection of two themes for each session, and having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), entitled "Themes for consideration by the Commission at its

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dd/ HS/C/13/9/Add.1.

ee/ HS/C/13/9/1 and Corr.1

ff/ HS/C/13/CRP.1.

gg/ HS/C/13/10.

hh/ HS/C/13/14/Add.1.

fourteenth session", ii/ decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare the following two theme papers for the fourteenth session: (a) Improvement of municipal management; (b) Appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery, and to take up at its fourteenth session the theme "Land policies with emphasis on access and affordability to low-income groups".

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ii/ HS/C/13/15.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
3	HS/C/13/1	Provisional agenda
3	HS/C/13/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
4	HS/C/13/2	Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/13/2/Add.1	Housing requirements of the Palestinian people
5	HS/C/13/3	Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
5	HS/C/13/4	Monitoring guidelines for national shelter strategies
5	HS/C/13/5	Second draft report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
6 (a)	HS/C/13/6	The significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to the concept of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the relationships between economic development, improving the living conditions of the poor, and the management and planning of settlements
6 (b)	HS/C/13/7	Use of energy by households and in construction and in production of building materials
7	HS/C/13/8	Draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1992-1993
7	HS/C/13/8/Add.1	Suggested topics for action by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) identified by the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
8	HS/C/13/9 and Corr.1	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1992-1993
8	HS/C/13/9/Add.1	Proposed budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
8	HS/C/13/9/Add.2	Financial matters: use of extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the 1992-1993 period
8	HS/C/13/10	Financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries for human settlements in the triennium 1989-1991
9	HS/C/13/11	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme
9	HS/C/13/12	Coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system
9	HS/C/13/13	Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations
9	HS/C/13/14	Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission
9	HS/C/13/14/Add.1	Draft submission to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
9	HS/C/13/14/Add.2	Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Programme and Coordination on an in-depth evaluation of the major programmes on human settlements
9	HS/C/13/14/Add.3	Comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
9	HS/C/13/14/Add.4	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/237 entitled "Joint Inspection Unit"
10	HS/C/13/15	Themes for consideration by the Commission at its fourteenth session
12	HS/C/13/16	Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements
9	HS/C/13/CRP.1 and Add.1	Main decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (first regular session of 1989 and second regular session of 1990) and the General Assembly (forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions) of relevance to the work of the Commission
7	HS/C/13/CRP.2	Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 1992-1993
7	HS/C/13/CRP.3	Medium-term plan for the period 1992-1993
8	HS/C/13/CRP.4	Financial report and audited fianancial statements of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium ended 31 December 1989 and Report of the Board of Auditors
3	HS/C/13/INF.1	State of preparedness of documents for the Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session as at 4 March 1991
3	HS/C/13/INF.2	List of documents before the Commission
4	HS/C/13/INF.3	Global Parliamentarians' Conference on Human Settlements and Development
4	HS/C/13/INF.4	Operational activities report 1991
8	HS/C/13/INF.5/Rev.1	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 2 April 1991
10	HS/C/13/INF.6	Land for human settlements
3	HS/C/13/INF.7	The Housing Indicators Programme
3	HS/C/13/INF.8/Rev.1	List of participants

Annex III

LIST OF AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

Country	Title	Language	Duration (minutes)
Burundi	The achievements of ECOSAT	French	25
Chile	National housing subsidies	Spanish	23
Chile	Working on solidarity	Spanish	17
China	A city reborn (reconstruction of Tangshan)	Chinese	10
China	Regional areas in Tianjin municipality	Chinese	12
Colombia	A future with decent housing	Spanish	13
Costa Rica	National housing strategy for Costa Rica	Spanish	27
France	Energy	French	7
India	Indian initiatives on building centres	English	25
India	Reaching homes to people	English	25
Myanmar	Human settlements development activities in the Union of Myanmar	English	15
Netherlands	The neglected human factor of habitat	English	29
Romania	Housing in search of a new strategy	English	25
United States of America	Shelter II	English	5
Zimbabwe	Shelter activities and sustainable development	English	26

Annex IV

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION

It gives me great pleasure to convey my warm greetings to the distinguished delegates to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for hosting this important session of the Commission. I am particularly grateful to H.E. President Robert Mugabe for his support to the work of the Commission. His presence here today underlines his commitment to the realization of the objectives and goals of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

This session of the Commission on Human Settlements is taking place against a backdrop of change and uncertainty in international economic relations. The ongoing process of transformation in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, moves towards greater economic and political integration of Europe and the process of democratization in many parts of the world are providing new hope for strengthened economic cooperation among nations. At the same time, however, the problem of external indebtedness in many developing countries and the slowing down of some of the major economies are impeding the revitalization and growth of the world economy. The problems for some of the developing countries have been further aggravated by the adverse impact of the Persian Gulf war. Present circumstances call for a major effort to strengthen multilateral cooperation in order to resolve the urgent problems facing our global society.

In working for economic and social progress and development, one of the central issues that has to be addressed is to ensure adequate living conditions for all human beings. This remains a daunting challenge and will require nothing less than a total commitment of effort and resources.

The Commission has the weighty responsibility of coordinating the imaginative and practical approaches outlined in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. In this connection, let me express my satisfaction at the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, which indicates that considerable progress has been achieved in implementing the Strategy. I am also pleased to see the close cooperation between the Commission on Human Settlements, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Environment and Development, which underlines the essential role that human settlements play in the protection of the environment and the achievement of economic development and social progress.

As you begin your deliberations on the important issues before the Commission, I am sure that the beautiful city of Harare and the hospitality of the people and Government of Zimbabwe will contribute towards facilitating your task. I wish you every success.

Annex V

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS

A. Statement by Mr. Edgardo Santiago, on behalf of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session

Having explained the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session, Mr. Santiago stated that it was an honour for him to be in the beautiful city of Harare and expressed his conviction of the importance of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements for national Governments and for a more humane future for the whole world, providing that sustainable development led to economic and social progress for the people of today and also allowed for and provided the necessary foundations for the integrated development of generations to come. This should lead countries, as well as the world community as a whole, to ensure that their development efforts were fully respectful of the environment, reinforced human settlements, and led to orderly and balanced progress. Those goals should inspire the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

B. Inaugural address by the President of Zimbabwe

In his inaugural address, the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Mr. Robert Mugabe, said that the Commission on Human Settlements had to live up to its obligations to assist countries and regions in improving human settlements and reaching the goal of the Global Strategy for Shelter to ensure shelter for all by the year 2000. He reminded the Commission that at the Eighth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Harare in September 1986, the Heads of State and Government had, inter alia, urged concerted efforts to improve shelter conditions. At the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries held in Cyprus in September 1988, all Governments had been invited to adopt and implement national shelter strategies.

President Mugabe recalled that the current session of the Commission coincided with the first phase of the Global Shelter Strategy, aimed at the formulation and design of national shelter strategies and new institutional arrangements. He expressed the hope that an open discussion would take place on the experience gained with a view to entering and starting the second phase, the introduction of new institutional arrangements and the strengthening of existing national programmes with renewed vigour.

President Mugabe said that the two special themes for the session illustrated the shift in emphasis from a sectoral approach to the provision of shelter and human settlements within the concept of sustainable development. It was imperative that human settlements be managed in a manner that ensured optimum use of scarce resources. Sustainable development could only be achieved with the full participation of the people, local governments and community organizations. He expressed the hope that the session would take humanity to an era which aimed at satisfying current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet future needs.

C. Address by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

In his inaugural address, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, the Executive Director, noted that despite many laudable achievements throughout the century, one fundamental goal, assuring a decent living environment for every member of the human race, still eluded the international community. That was particularly visible in the human settlements of the developing countries, where growing poverty, deplorable living and housing conditions and increasing pollution were not only spoiling the environment, but also degrading the quality of life of their inhabitants.

All that was illustrative, the Executive Director noted, of growing pressures on human settlements, pressures which would test the talents and skills of policy makers in the coming years. Addressing them successfully would not only determine the future of human settlements, but also, to a large degree, the prospects for national development as well. The pressures were fourfold, the Executive Director noted. First, the growing integration of the world economy, which produced pressures on settlements of all sizes to perform their economic and service functions according to international standards of performance and efficiency; secondly, the rising expectations of the increasingly urban, better educated and overwhelmingly young current and future generations in the developing countries for better living and working conditions and for better housing and services; thirdly, the need to balance the need for human settlements growth and economic development with the equally important need to preserve the environment and non-renewable resources; and, fourthly, the inevitability of continued urbanization, which would produce even greater demands for shelter and services over the coming years.

The Executive Director then suggested that the response to those pressures should be a greater emphasis on the human settlements sector in national policy-making; the improvement of urban-management capacity and the strengthening of local authorities; an enabling approach so that people could meet their shelter and other basic needs in a self-reliant manner; and a sustainable human development path which balanced needs for economic growth with the need to preserve the environment and natural resources.

Policies to manage fast-growing urbanization in developing countries would have to become a priority of Governments and the international community alike. The urban population of the developing countries, which had been estimated at 675 million in 1970, was expected to reach nearly 2 billion in the year 2000, and approximately 4 billion by the year 2025. All human settlements, from rural centres to urban agglomerations, had to become the focus of a strategy, which would seek to promote both rural and urban development in an integrated programme and within the framework of national economic planning.

In conclusion, the Executive Director stressed that the task would be difficult, and therefore there would be a need to review the progress made and, in light of that, he suggested that a mid-term review be held of the Global Strategy for Shelter through an international conference.

D. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) delivered the address of Dr. Mostafa Tolba. In his address, the Executive Director described the cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat), and noted that that cooperation had expanded in the past two years to cover a wide variety of areas. The main theme in the thirteenth session of the Commission, "Human Settlements and Sustainable Development", had, he said, been a concern of UNEP since 1972.

Sustainable settlements, the Executive Director stated, could not be promoted independently of concerns for the natural environment. There was a need to integrate the planning and development of human settlements with the concern to protect the natural environment and to use resources in a rational and sustainable manner.

According to the Executive Director, there were two challenging tasks that UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) were facing. The first was to encourage the development of a partnership between the informal sector and local authorities, while the second was to promote settlements systems that were planned and managed in symbiosis with the natural resource base. The support of Governments to UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) was crucial if the challenge was to be met and sustainable development achieved.

E. Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The representative of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) noted that the importance of human settlements in the overall context of UNCED goals was repeatedly stressed by many delegations at the April session of the Preparatory Committee. Human settlements issues were closely related to UNCED goals because they also related to the need to use the modernizing process created by rapid urbanization and the utilization of scientific and technical knowledge to increase productivity and improve health. While problems of unsustainability arose as rapid population growth outstripped the pace of improvement of life-empowering conditions, the modernization aspect of the concentration of populations was an opportunity to provide an enabling environment for economic growth and services for acceptable living conditions. Among required new strategies were a more participatory approach to decision-making, new attitudes on the role of women, more credible use of land resources, the need to search for cost recovery, and the pricing of services at their real economic cost. Finally, a settlements strategy should set priorities on the basis of which to make faster progress in reducing poverty.

The Earth Summit would provide an opportunity to redefine the relationship between the human family and the environment. It would require recommendations on how to effect a shift towards a more sustainable human settlements strategy, and on how UNCED could help in such areas as the preparation of integrated national shelter strategies, the facilitation of technology transfer, and the adoption of cost recovery and other measures needed for financially sustainable systems.